

State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations

PO Box 2721 Waiānae, Hawaii 96792
Tel: 808 668 4255 Fax: 808 668 1334

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY RECONCILIATION PROCESS AS CALLED FOR IN P.L. 103-150 THE APOLOGY RESOLUTION

TO: John Berry, Assistant Secretary
Department of Interior &
Mark Van Norman, Directory
Office of Tribal Justice, Department of Justice

FROM: Anthony Sang, Sr. Chairman
State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Association (SCHHA)

DATE: November 11, 1999

Honorable John Berry and Mark Van Norman, my name is Anthony Sang, Sr., or more commonly known as, "Tony" as the elected chairman of the State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Association (SCHHA). This statewide organization includes 23 Hawaiian Homestead Associations, its elected officers, board of directors and its general membership with a total of approximately 26,000 members.

More recently, we have organized and held a conference of all Native Hawaiian in the six western states (Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona and Utah) this past August in Las Vegas, Nevada. The conference addressed the needs of our people relating to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HICA) and included the initial steps to organizing political action councils. An additional follow-up conference was held and hosted by the Southern California Council of Hawaiian Clubs and Organizations in September. We hope that our final efforts will better utilize our states into a more cohesive political action group with extended and up-to-date technology and communication network. This will enable us to participate in such important issues as this and others upcoming.

We are submitting this written testimony on behalf of the SCHHA in regards to the reconciliation process between the federal government and the Native Hawaiian population. As we approach the beginning steps of the reconciliation process, we wish that this becomes a permanent and more identifiable process. For this reason, we support the three objectives as outlined in Senator Daniel Akaka's letter dated November 8, 1999.

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We support and propose that steps be taken to plan, organize, develop and institute an "Office" within the Office of Interior to focus its energy on Native Hawaiian issues. By following this action plan, a permanent vehicle in which the reconciliation process between the federal government and the Native Hawaiian people could be worked. We realize that any reconciliation takes time and is a series of many steps that will require continued efforts of both sides for a meaningful and lasting dialogue. The SCIII.A and its membership along with its Political Action Councils located on the continental United States would support this action whereby the Office would be the "link" between the representative of the Native Hawaiians to the federal government.

We support this first of three objectives that Senator Akaka's proposal for establishing the Office and that the federal government should make permanent funding for its operations as part of the budget of the Department of Interior. We realize that this Office should be given the same federal recognition as the Native American Indians and Native Alaskan Indians.

Along this same effort, the second objective is to seek after and gain assistance for help by the federal government in developing and establishing a framework for addressing self-determination and ceded lands. With the Office being established and a link developed between the federal government and the Native Hawaiian people, self-determination will ultimately be reached, but after a long and lengthy dialogue, community meetings, public hearings to establish a consensus for a methodology acceptable to all entities, Native Hawaiians and federal government.

Ceded land is an issue that will require extensive discussion and will reach a far and involved community. It will affect everyone within the state of Hawaii and with the established Office, this will ensure continued discussions and dialogue.

We support the second objective in Senator Akaka's proposal and feel that this is the right step towards an acceptable reconciliation process.

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Lastly, the third objective is vital to the overall processes proposed by Senator Akaka that we support. We support the proposal to take full advantage of the time that is left in the Clinton Administration to focus on any actions that can be made to and make better the present conditions of the Native Hawaiians by way of 1) social and 2) economic conditions.

These include those bills being under consideration in Congress that affect the Native Hawaiian Health Act, Native Hawaiian Housing and those affiliated with Education as well as Social and Economic Development. The consensus of the SCHHA is that all of these bills currently being reviewed should remain as is, under control by its present overseer such as Papa Ola Lokahi relating to the Native Hawaiian Health Act. For the Native Hawaiian Housing we recommend the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and those currently assigned as administrators of the federal funds received for the Native Hawaiian Education and others upcoming.

Although the State entity of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) has become more vocal and presently over extends itself into other affairs, we feel that self-determination is a consensus of a group of individuals, namely the State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations (SCHHA). We agree that self-determination is a "human right", but more so is a collective right to determine our political status. This will become into realization once the first and second objectives are completed and as Senator Akaka stated, a "*reconciliation is an evolving, continuing process based on dialogue between the federal government, Native Hawaiians, and Hawaii's congressional delegation*".

We recognize the efforts of the Hawaii Congressional Delegation this includes the work of Senator Daniel Akaka, but also our recognition to our senior Senator Daniel Inouye. Senator Inouye has been instrumental in the past for the successful recognition of the Native American Indians and Native Alaskan Indians.

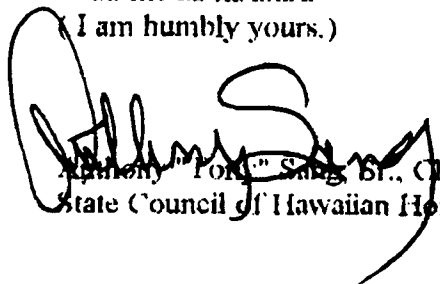
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Only through these successes can we, the Native Hawaiian people given recognition equal to these indigenous people and that our reconciliation process can begin. For these reasons, I submit this written testimony on behalf of the State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations and will encourage each individual association to submit a written testimony likewise in this manner to your office.

We extend our appreciation for this opportunity to submit this testimony and should you have any questions regarding this matter, please call me at (808) 259-7602.

O au me ka ha'aha'a
(I am humbly yours.)



Anthony "Poni" Sings Sr., Chairman
State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations (SCHHA)

NOV-22-99 11:04 AM P.03

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STATE COUNCIL OF HAWAIIAN HOMESTEAD ASSOCIATIONS

AN AFFIRMATION SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN POPULATION AND THE UNITED STATES

We, the undersigned, duly elected representatives of the twenty-three member associations of the State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations, met in Honolulu, Hawaii on Saturday, November 20, 1999 for a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting. We received information about the efforts to achieve reconciliation between the Native Hawaiian population and the United States, deliberated the issue and voted to support the following efforts that would forward the process for achieving reconciliation: establish an office within the Department of Interior that will focus on Native Hawaiian issues by developing a process to address identified issues and to use the time remaining with the Clinton administration to focus on other necessary actions to improve the social and economic conditions of the Native Hawaiian population.

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Ahupua'a O Hawaii

Kawaihae Homestead Association

Maku'u Farmers Association

Henry I. Weyant

Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders Association, Inc.

W. K. Kamae

Ahupua'a O Kauai

Anahola Hawaiian Homestead Association

Winifred E. Cernone

Anahola Hawaiian Land Farms Association

Kekaha Hawaiian Homestead Association

Ahupua'a O Maui

Ka 'Ohana O Kahikinui

Keolu Hawaiian Homes Farmers Association

Joshua P. M.

Paukukane Hawaiian Homes Community Association

Stephen K. Kapaemahu *Gov. Cassell*

Waichu Kou Community Homestead Association

Waiohuli Hawaiian Homesteaders, Inc.

Kathleen O'Brien

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Ahupua'a O Molokai

Hoolehua Homesteaders Association

Ernest K. O'Neal, Sr.

Hoolehua Homestead Agriculture Association

Ross K. Kama

Kalamaula Mauka Homestead Association

Kamiloloa One-Alii Homesteaders Association

Linda Castro - by Luana Hamakua V.P.

Kapaakea Homesteaders Association

Renetta Mokuas

Ahupua'a O Oahu

Kewalo Hawaiian Homestead Community Association

Nanakuli Hawaiian Homestead Community Association

Papahale Community Association

P. Pam Kapaolu

Princess Kahanu Estates Association

Kulani Ahmad

Waianae Kai Hawaiian Homestead Association

Waianae Valley Homestead Community Association

James L. Lipo

Waimanalo Hawaiian Homes Association

Malcolm A. Williams

State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations

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STATE COUNCIL OF HAWAIIAN HOMESTEAD ASSOCIATION

AN AFFIRMATION SUPPORTING WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF ANTHONY SANG, SR., CHAIRMAN RECONCILIATION PROCESS

We, the members of the State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Association (SCHHA) met in Honolulu, Hawaii on Saturday, November 20, 1999 for a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting. We received information which was deliberated and voted to support, Chairman Anthony Sangs written testimony concerning the "reconciliation process".